

E2SHB 2630 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Increasing Washington's economic competitiveness requires
5 increasing the supply of skilled workers in the state; and

6 (2) Improving the labor market competitiveness of all Washington
7 residents requires that all residents have access to postsecondary
8 education.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges, a
12 nonprofit organization that has been established to address work force
13 development issues by a recognized statewide organization of employers
14 representing a majority of employers in the state, and the work force
15 training and education coordinating board, in consultation with a
16 statewide high-technology organization, shall:

17 (a) Identify high demand occupations, which are occupations where
18 employer demand for workers exceeds the supply of qualified job
19 applicants;

20 (b) Convene or use existing industry groups, such as industry skill
21 panels or other industry or occupational entities, to identify the
22 skill sets that workers need in the high demand occupations;

23 (c) Develop and identify credentials, certificates, and credit-
24 bearing curriculum recognized by postsecondary institutions and
25 employers statewide and that are based on the attainment of the skill
26 sets needed in occupations in high demand sectors;

27 (d) Market the credentials or certificates and credit-bearing
28 curriculum to potential students and employers as a way for them to
29 advance in their careers; and

30 (e) Gain recognition of the credentials or certificates and credit-
31 bearing curriculum by employers.

1 (2) In carrying out the functions of this section, the state board
2 for community and technical colleges shall give priority to high demand
3 occupations in industry sectors important to the economic growth of the
4 state.

5 (3) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in
6 implementing this section, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of
7 money, services, and property. All moneys received by the college
8 board for the purposes of this section must be deposited in a
9 depository approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such
10 funds shall be on authorization of the college board or a duly
11 authorized representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective
12 expenditure and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects
13 to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit
14 expenditure of such funds.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
18 develop and implement a pilot work force education program known as the
19 opportunity grant program to provide funding for low-income students
20 enrolled in the program. For the purposes of this program, low-income
21 is defined as one hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
22 level or less. Grant funds may be used for tuition, books, fees, and
23 other expenses associated with attending a work force education
24 program. Students must be enrolled and maintain satisfactory progress
25 in a program developed under section 2 of this act or an existing
26 program leading to a credential or certificate based on skills needed
27 in an occupation in a high demand sector identified under section 2 of
28 this act. The board must:

29 (a) Begin developing the program no later than March 15, 2006, with
30 student enrollment to begin no later than January 1, 2007;

31 (b) Submit an implementation progress report to the legislature and
32 the governor by November 1, 2006. The progress report shall include
33 but not be limited to:

34 (i) Program goals including target student enrollment and program
35 completion numbers, and strategies including program delivery and
36 instructional models for success;

37 (ii) A description of program design including student eligibility
38 criteria and application process, allowable uses of grant funds, a

1 process for calculating and administering awards, monitoring student
2 academic progress;

3 (iii) Pilot college site selection and implementation processes;

4 (iv) Lessons learned during design and implementation and how the
5 program differs from traditional financial aid programs;

6 (v) Results to date including the number of students enrolled,
7 average grant amount, programs in which students enrolled, completions
8 and on-track status of currently enrolled students, job placements, and
9 starting wages earned by program completers to date; and

10 (vi) Continuing evaluation plan including measures, targets, and
11 baseline data required from pilot colleges;

12 (c) Submit a continuing evaluation report to the legislature and
13 governor by January 15, 2008, including but not limited to data on
14 student enrollment, program completion, job placement, and earnings.

15 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges may, in
16 implementing the opportunity grant program, accept, use, and dispose of
17 contributions of money, services, and property. All moneys received by
18 the college board for the program must be deposited in a depository
19 approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be
20 on authorization of the college board or a duly authorized
21 representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective expenditure
22 and revenue control, such funds are subject in all respects to chapter
23 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required to permit expenditure of
24 such funds.

25 (3) Community and technical colleges that are selected as pilot
26 colleges to administer the opportunity grants shall coordinate student
27 benefits with the higher education coordinating board for those
28 students who are also accessing traditional forms of financial aid such
29 as the state need grant, pell grant, and other aid programs
30 administered by the higher education coordinating board under their
31 authority in RCW 28B.76.500.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The work force training and education
33 coordinating board, with cooperation from the state board for community
34 and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board,
35 shall conduct a study to include:

36 (a) A review of and recommendations for consolidating and
37 simplifying the delivery of state-funded and federally funded work
38 force education programs and work force education aid offered to

1 students in this state, with a goal of achieving easier access to
2 postsecondary education for students;

3 (b) A description of barriers that exist to combining work force
4 education programs and work force education aid, such as state or
5 federal statutes, rules, or regulations, and the relief that may be
6 available through federal waivers;

7 (c) An estimate of the funding gap between available work force
8 education aid and the financial needs of students living in this state;

9 (d) A description of barriers to access and completion of work
10 force education programs in this state; and

11 (e) Recommendations for increasing participation and completion
12 rates for work force education programs.

13 (2) The work force training and education coordinating board must
14 submit its report on the study to the legislature by November 15, 2006,
15 and must coordinate its study and research with the Washington Learns
16 study of postsecondary education.

17 (3) The work force training and education coordinating board may,
18 in carrying out this study, accept, use, and dispose of contributions
19 of money, services, and property. All moneys received by the board for
20 the study must be deposited in a depository approved by the state
21 treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of
22 the board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to
23 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, such funds are
24 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
25 required to permit expenditure of such funds.

26 (4) For purposes of this section:

27 (a) "Financial needs" includes but is not limited to tuition,
28 books, fees, tools, living expenses, and child care expenses.

29 (b) "Work force education aid" means financial aid, funded from
30 state or federal sources, provided to students enrolled in work force
31 education programs.

32 (c) "Work force education programs" means education and skills
33 training, including vocational education, apprenticeships, adult basic
34 education linked to vocational education, work force education under
35 RCW 28C.18.010, work force training provided under chapter 74.08A RCW,
36 and any other related work force training program.

37 (5) This section expires December 31, 2006.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires June 30, 2008.

